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The review of the meeting of the Société asiatique, which was held on November 13, 1874, appeared in the Journal asiatique of last December, and it contained this note:

"In his article on Formosa [EJ: this article is source 28: Hervey de Saint Denys.] (Journal asiatique, August-September issue, 1874, p. 119), M. d'Hervey de Saint-Denys expressed regret at not having been able to consult the Taï-tsing y-tong-tchi geography on the ancient history of Taï-ouan, and he added that the two leaves which he needed to examine were missing from the copy which is in the National Library. M. Specht says that the National Library has two copies of this Chinese work, one of which, catalogued as number 289, is a second edition which was published in 1764, and has several missing pages at the beginning of the kiouen 337; but the second copy, which is a first edition and appeared in 1744, has this article in the kiouen 271, column 21." [436]

I was busy teaching and working on the notes for my translation of Ma-touan-lin, which is is being published, and so I did not have time to refer to this at once; but I have just read these pages, and I am most grateful to M. Specht for having called my attention to the fact that there was a second copy of the Tai-tsing y-tong-tchi geography in the National Library. The historic section of the article on Tai-ouan is too brief to be of value, but a geographic appendix confirms what I have stated about the identity of Formosa with the country which the Chinese called Lieou-Kieou for a long time.

After describing Formosa as a department of the province of Fo-kien, and bearing the name Tai-ouan-fou, the Tai-tsing y-tong-tchi geography mentions the Peng-hou islands (the Pescadores) which belong to it, and says this:

"Peng-hou Islands. They lie in the sea, west of the district of Tai-ouan; and across from these islands, but still toward the west, is the place called Kin-men-so, which belongs to Tsiouen-tcheou (Fo-kien). In the Histoire des Song (1) we read that the kingdom

1. The Song dynasty reigned over China from 960 to 1279.

of Lieou-kieou is east of Tsiouen-tcheou, and that you can see the fires and smoke from the islands of Peng-hou. [437] The Histoire des Youen (2) says this: the Peng-hou

2. The Youen dynasty reigned from 1260 to 1279 with the Songs, and then alone from 1279 to 1368.

islands, which are across from the Lieou-kieou, are in the limits of the four territories of Tchang-tcheou, Tsiouen-tcheou, Hing-tcheou and Foutcheou. On the farther side of

the Peng-hou islands there is a current (or there are currents) which becomes (become) very strong as you approach the shores of Lieou-kieou. It is (or they are) called Lo-tsi (which throws at the coast). The waters drop rapidly and do not come back, so it is a very dangerous region. During the twenty-eighth year of tchi-youen (1293), Ou-tchi-teou, who was a native of Fo-kien, said that if they wanted to get possession of Lieou-kieou, they would have to get a foothold on the Peng-hou islands and send vessels (full of troops) from there. The next year (1294) an expedition set out from Ting-tcheou to do this. It failed, and the boats returned to the anchorage of the Peng-hou. According to an old geography (continues the Tai-tsing y-tong-tchi), the main island contains mountains which have a gentle slope and fertile valleys. It measures about fifty li from east to west and about twenty li from north to south. It is surrounded by a large number of islets. If you sail east from the city of Tsiouen-tcheou, you can reach it in three days."

[438] Every line of this document is important, but let us examine the date of publication first. Formosa is no longer the foreign land which the Chinese had formerly included in the collective term of the Lieou-kieou archipelago. The island has become the Chinese department of Tai-ouan, which contains a district of the same name, both of which are named for the very modern city of Taï-ouan which is the capital of the island. When it wants to give the location of the Peng-hou islands, the Taï-tsing y-tong-tchi

begins by stating that they are west of the Taï-ouan district, in the direction of Kin-men (the gates of gold), a harbor which is south and in the limits of Tsiouen-tcheou. After giving the contemporary place names, the geography of Tsin quotes two old books which tell some interesting information about the Peng-hou islands, and in both of these statements Formosa is naturally called Lieou-kieou, just as a Latin author would refer to Portugal as Lusitania.

Could anything be clearer and more precise:

He has just said that "the Peng-hou islands are west of Tai-ouan, and farther west is the Chinse city of Tsiouen-tcheou;" then he gives it another form by adding: "The Song history says that the kingdom of Lieou-kieou is east of Tsiouen-tcheou, and that you can see the fires and smoke from various places on the Peng-hou islands." And then he goes on to say that [439] the same fact is recorded in the History of the Youen, where it is written that "The Peng-hou islands, which are also across from Lieou-kieou, (3) are

> 3. The space occupied by the Peng-hou islands is much smaller than the History of the Youen assumes. They are all between lat. 23° and 24°, whereas Formosa extends from lat. 22° to 25° and beyond, so on the eastern side they cannot face any other country

than Formosa (Lieou-kieou). Moreover, these waters do not have any other islands or islets with which you could confuse them.

within the coastal limits of the four territories of Tchang-tcheou, Tsiouen-tcheou, Hing-tcheou and Fou-tcheou, that is in the canal of Fo-kien and Formosa."

That ought to be sufficient proof to dispel any doubts. However, the Tai-tsing y-tong-tchi does not stop there, and he becomes even more explicit; he speaks of the violent currents which you find between the Peng-hou islands and the shores of Lieou-kieou (Formosa), and he says that these currents are called Lo-tsi; Chinese sailors still use that name for them today. (4)

4. I obtained this decisive evidence from Baron de Méritens, who was formerly head of the southern customs for the Chinese Government; he lived for twelve years in Fou-tcheou, which is the capital of Fo-kien, and he made several trips from the Chinese coasts to Formosa, passing by way of the Peng-hou islands. For further information about the nature of the currents, which the Chinese call lo-tsi, and which cast vessels on the Formosan coast, see the Nautical Instructions, which were published by the Navy Department, no. 426, p. 21, 24, etc.

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[440] He depicts the Chinese fleet which gathered on the Peng-hou islands to attempt a landing on the neighboring shores, and then its return to the same anchorage after the failure of the expedition. Finally he tells how long it took to make the trip in the Chinese vessels: "If you sail from Tsiouen-tcheou, you can reach the Peng-hou islands in three days." You could not have a better confirmation of what Ma-touan-lin tells in his article on the Lieou-kieou kingdom, and in his description of the Chinese expedition of 606, I have taken the essential facts about this from my memoire: Sur Formose et sur les iles appelées en chinois Lieou-kieou. [EJ: source 28: Hervey de Saint-Denys.]

The Chinese expedition of 606 left Y-ngan and sailed three days before it arrived at Youen-peï (one of the Peng-hou islands). Y-ngan, which is now called Tsiouen-tcheou-fou, is about the same distance from the Peng-hou islands as Tsiouen-tcheou (about forty myriameters, as the crow flies), while the distance from the Peng-hou islands to the real Lieou-kieou islands is four times as great. If it takes a ship three days to go from Y-ngan or Tsiouen-tcheou to the Peng-hou islands, it could not go from the Peng-hou to the real Lieou-kieou in less than ten or twelve days; yet Ma-touan-lin says definitely that 1) they went from Tsiouen-tcheou to Lieou-kieou in five days, and that 2) the expedition of 606 spent one day crossing from the Youen-pei (Peng-hou islands) anchorage [441] to the place where the Chinese soldiers landed on the Lieou-kieou soil.

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I have already presented this last point in my memoir, but the fragment of the Tai-tsing y-tong-tchi that I have just been reading stresses this fact, and then even a glance at the maps of the Chinese Sea will show you that no vessel from the Tsiouen-tcheou territory could ever have sailed toward the Peng-hou islands to go to the ones which are called the Lieou-kieou today.

This is the information which I found in the Tai-tsing y-tong-tchi. But I also consulted the special Fo-kien geography which is entitled Fo-kien tong-tchi. And the expedition of 606 against Lieou-kieou, which was undertaken at the command of Emperor Yang-ti and was under the orders of Tchin-ling, is described in the historical notice about Tai-ouan (K. 64, folio 1, verso), with the additional information that the fleet passed little Lieou-kieou (siao Lieou-kieou), and that you could still see on Kao-hoa the vestiges of the brick and stone constructions which the Chinese soldiers of the expeditionary force built; since they could not take possession of Formosa, they evidently tried to establish a naval base in this little harbor.